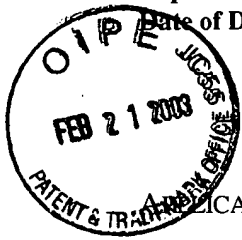


Date of Deposit: February 21, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 20363-011



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Silver *et al.*

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/834,778

EXAMINER: D. Sullivan

FILING DATE: April 12, 2001

ART UNIT: 1636

FOR: SELF-EXTINGUISHING RECOMBINASES, NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING THEM AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

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February 21, 2003  
Boston, Massachusetts

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed October 21, 2002. Applicants enclose herewith a Petition for a one-month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and a \$55.00 check as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1). With this extension of time, the present Amendment and Response is due on February 21, 2003.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due with this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee due with this submission, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference 20363-011.

**AMENDMENTS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

***In the Claims:***

Please cancel claims 1 and 6 and replace the pending claims with the following:

B<sup>1</sup>  
2. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising at least a first signal sequence and a second signal sequence and a recombinase gene operably linked to an expression control sequence, said first and second signal sequences being positioned to mediate excision or inversion of a sufficient portion of either the recombinase gene or the expression control sequence to inactivate or decrease